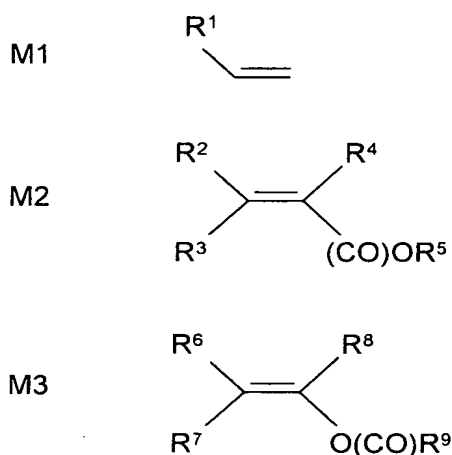


What is claimed is:

1. The use of a polymer which contains, in copolymerized form, an  $\alpha$ -olefin, a vinyl ester and a  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -hydrocarbyl ester of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid as an additive for fuel oils and lubricants.
2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the polymer contains the vinyl ester and the ester of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymerized in random distribution.
3. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the polymer is composed of monomers including M1, M2 and M3 and wherein M1, M2 and M3 have the following general formulae:



where

$R^1$  is H or  $C_1$ - $C_{40}$ -hydrocarbyl;

$R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each independently H or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl;

$R^5$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -hydrocarbyl;

$R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each independently H or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ -alkyl; and

$R^9$  is  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -hydrocarbyl.

4. The use according to claim 3, wherein the monomers M1, M2 and M3 are present in the polymer in the following molar proportions:  
M1: from 0.60 to 0.98  
M2: from 0.01 to 0.20  
M3: from 0.01 to 0.20.
5. The use according to either of claims 3 and 4, wherein monomer M1 is ethylene.
6. The use according to any of claims 3 to 5, wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are each H or two of the  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  radicals are each H and the other radical is methyl.